

From: Brian Johnson
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 9:50am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom it may concern:

I am a member of the IT community and am writing to you today to make my feelings known on the Microsoft Settlement proposed on November 06, 2001.

As I stated, I am a member of the IT community and work for Duke University in Durham, NC. Everyone else in my department uses Windows for their desktop Operating System; I use Red Hat Linux. I do this because I have a boss who understands the importance of choice and because I realize there are alternatives available to me. Unfortunately, I don't believe everyone has the same luxury.

I don't believe that Microsoft Outlook is the number one email client or that Internet Explorer is the number one web browser because they're the best. I believe that they're number one because of questionable business practices, including tactics to ensure customers aren't aware of alternatives, leading to the building and maintaining of a monopoly by Microsoft. Fortunately, the Courts agreed and have found Microsoft guilty.

Following the verdict finding Microsoft guilty, I have read the proposed settlement. Although I believe the settlement tries to go in the right direction, I feel that, in its present wording, it is unable to effectively prevent Microsoft from continuing its monopoly. I ask that you reconsider the conditions and the wording in the settlement, and ensure that Microsoft does not continue its anti-competitive practices.

I know that we are all ready to put this behind us, however, I strongly believe that there are better solutions out there than Microsoft, and by leaving the settlement conditions as they stand now, you are ensuring that people will continue to be denied the knowledge of these choices. Thank you for your time in this matter.

Sincerely,

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